



U.S. Air Force

DEP News

RAP offers chance to bring 'home' to office

Most agree bringing work home from the office is avoided if at all possible. Instead, the Recruiter Assistance Program finds success in bringing the home to the office in the form of local Airmen telling the Air Force story.

While the recruiter's role is to ensure people qualify for service, many young men and women ultimately based their decisions to join on careful consideration and likely discussions with several

people. For a lot of them, speaking with Airmen participating in the Recruiter Assistance Program probably helped ease doubts about joining and erased the skepticism some may have had.

The RAP brings Air Force technical training graduates back to their hometowns to work alongside recruiters for up to 12 days before their first duty assignments.

Although RAPPers must provide their own transportation to their

hometowns and their own living arrangements during the program, the days spent working in the recruiter's office are nonchargeable leave. Duty days are spent assisting the recruiter, and evenings are free to spend with family and friends.

Among the various duties performed by Airmen participating in Recruiter Assistance Program is helping the recruiter gather leads.

by Staff Sgt. Marti Ribeiro



RAP duties prove valuable to recruiter

So you want to take advantage of the Recruiter Assistance Program and its benefit of returning home, but you're not quite sure what you'll be doing?

The most valuable contributions of RAP duty are your personal testimonials, assistance in school visits and performance of other recruiting related tasks. As some of the Air Force's newest Airmen, you can make unique contributions to the recruiting mission.

The following are some duties in which your recruiter may ask for your assistance.

Behind the desk

– Develop prospecting lists using a high school yearbook. Prospecting lists include those individuals who meet general Air Force qualifications.

– Conduct “light” phone contact. Begin with people you're comfortable with such as your friends and former classmates.

– Develop a brief summary of your basic training and technical



training experiences. Include what a typical day was like, what to expect, what you liked best, and what you wish you would have known beforehand. You can use this information at gatherings such as Delayed Entry Program commander's calls.

– Participate in DEP commander's calls by meeting with upcoming shippers and answering questions about basic training and technical training.

In the zone

– Conduct visits to area high schools and colleges with your recruiter.

– Obtain school lists for high school seniors and juniors.

– Make limited classroom presentations, primarily answering questions other students may have about the Air Force.

– Share your experiences with your former counselors and teachers; this builds support for Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, or ASVAB, testing.

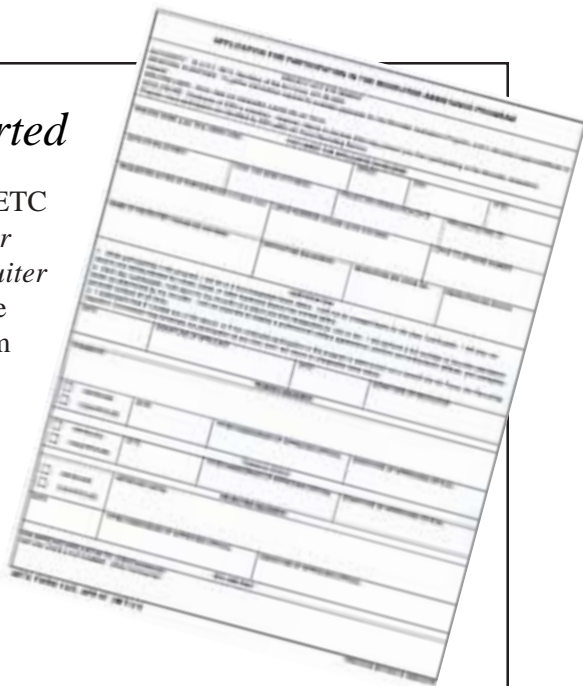
– Attend center of influence events for educators and students to answer their questions.

– Help man lunchroom displays

When to get started

To participate, submit AETC Form 1327, *Application for Participation in the Recruiter Assistance Program*, to the recruiting squadron program monitor at least four weeks before graduation from technical training.

It's important that you notify the recruiting squadron RAP monitor if your graduation date changes as it affects your RAP dates.



and attend career day activities.

- Speak to students who operate school radio or television talk shows, or tell the school newspaper staff about your job.

In the community

- Assist with special events

involving the setup of the mini-jet or Raptor SUV.

- Participate in parades.
- Conduct local news interviews, such as a hometown news release or military column.
- Participate in base tours with prospective applicants.

U.S. Air Force photo



Airmen participating in the Recruiter Assistance Program prove valuable in helping support recruiters and special events in the community.

Improving chances for RAP

Involvement in DEP, success at training vital for approval

Most Airmen applying for Recruiter Assistance Program duty are excited to return to their hometowns for a chance to share new experiences with others. However, they must keep in mind that applying for RAP doesn't necessarily guarantee approval.

As the RAP monitor for the Michigan area, Jeannie Johnson is located at the 339th Recruiting Squadron headquarters where she evaluates each request based on recruiters' need for assistance during the requested time period. Some applicants are approved for less than the full 12 days; and sometimes for dates different from what they requested.

Becoming a candidate for RAP duty takes more than completing the proper paperwork. Many Airmen returning to their hometowns for RAP duty are often those who have made the most contributions while in the Delayed Entry Program.

"RAP applicants also have to have done well at tech school and not gotten in trouble," added

Ms. Johnson.

After reviewing an application for RAP, the monitor contacts the recruiter for a recommendation of approval or disapproval.

Recruiters generally recommend approval unless they'll be unavailable during the time the Airman will be in the area or if they exceed the target of two participants per month or one participant at a time.

Based on the recommendation of the recruiter, the RAP monitor coordinates the request with the recruiting squadron commander, who approves or disapproves the application, said Ms. Johnson.

Once the approval process is completed, the applicant is notified.

Airmen approved for RAP duty should also receive a commander's verification letter from the recruiting squadron. A signed, fax copy will be sent to the applicant's unit representative at their technical training school.

If approved for RAP, Airmen should contact the recruiter they will work with immediately when they arrive home on leave. The recruiter will verify dates of participation, make sure Airmen can meet their reporting or port call dates, and specify when and where to report for duty.

Airman returns home to participate in RAP

An airman first class selected for special duty as a ceremonial guardsman in the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard is among the many who returned home as part of the Recruiter Assistance Program to share their experiences with others in the community.

Airman 1st Class Casey McCurdy, 22, used the RAP to assist Master Sgt. Joe Pearcey with recruiting efforts in Casper, Wyo., and the surrounding areas.

“The RAP is a wonderful chance for Airmen to return home to visit with family and friends and talk about their experiences with the Air Force,” said Sergeant Pearcey.

McCurdy completed Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Sergeant Pearcey said Airman McCurdy graduated BMT with honors and was selected for special duty with the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard.

Before joining the Air Force, the



Airman McCurdy

Airman studied at Casper College, where he received an associate's degree in fire science and was named to the college's presidential honor roll.

His intentions are to continue his training and career as a firefighter for the Air Force, but has now added an additional element to his plans with his selection to the prestigious Air Force Honor Guard.

Sergeant Pearcey said the new Airman plans to take advantage of tuition assistance benefits available through the Air Force to pursue his bachelor's degree in fire science at the University of Maryland while stationed at Bolling AFB, D.C.

He graduated the honor guard technical training recently and is now assigned to Bolling. As a member of the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard, Airman McCurdy serves as a ceremonial representative of the service at public and official ceremonies. Those include presidential inaugurations, funerals for heads of state, and arrival and departure ceremonies for visiting dignitaries.

Airman McCurdy said he's proud to serve as a ceremonial guardsman where the motto is, “To Honor with Dignity.”

Pocket-size handbook valuable for Airmen

A new Airman handbook launched in January offers Airmen everything they need to know to pass “Air Force 101” in a pocket-sized book.

Conceived by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper, the blue paperback handbook offers “big pictures” and little words to blend together the four pillars of the Air Force: character, honor, personal integrity and patriotism throughout its 360 pages.

Among the first to be presented the handbook by Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray were trainees in their fourth week at Basic Military Training.

“I wish we’d had something like this when I started my career,”

said Chief Murray. “It’s really a foundation of what we do in the Air Force.”

Chief Murray encouraged the

basic trainees to use the handbook as a means of continually increasing their overall knowledge.

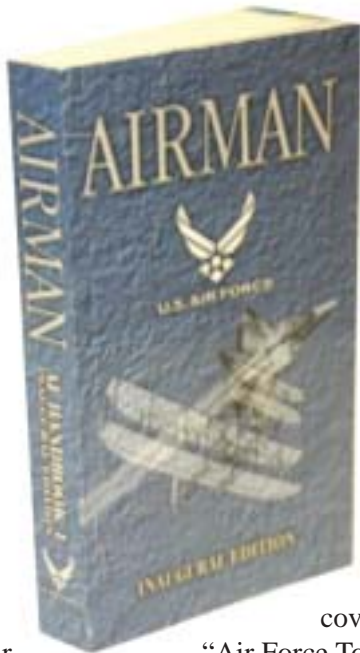
“The more you learn about this great Air Force, the more doors it opens up,” he said.

The handbook encompasses a broad expanse of military information broken into six sections,

covering topics such as

“Air Force Top 10 Aces,” “Air Force Vocabulary,” “CONOPS” and “Medal of Honor Recipients.”

Those interested in seeing a preview of the Airman handbook can log on to www.airman.af.mil.



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U.S. Air Force's *Future Force*

Valerie Santa

Date of birth: July 9, 1987

Recruiter: Senior Airman Carlos Aragon

Hometown: Apple Valley, Calif.

Name of high school and mascot: Granite Hills High School Cougars

Future Air Force job: Aircraft structural maintenance

Why the Air Force? The Air Force has a lot to offer any person. I have always seen myself as a mechanic or welder, and now I really want to (serve) at the same time. The Air Force is my way of doing it all at once.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? I see myself as a well-known fabricator working on vehicles and aircraft, living on a ranch with a family ... and serving my country.

Hobbies: I like riding dirt bikes, four-wheeling, fishing, camping, shooting and, like all girls, shopping.

Favorite magazine: Four Wheeler

Last book read: "The Five People You Meet in Heaven," Mitch Albom

What movie have you rented or seen more than five times? "Dumb and Dumber," who hasn't?

Favorite TV program: "Monster Garage" on Discovery Channel

Vacation choice: South Padre Island, Texas

Hottest car: Honda CRF450 dirt bike

Favorite sports teams: Texas Rangers and Dallas Cowboys

Personal motto: "Get-Ur-Done"

If you could hang out with one person for an entire day, who would it be? It would definitely be the lovely Laura Bush. I have always wanted to see what it is like to be the spouse of a president.

Courtesy photo



Wait for jobs soon over

Departures to BMT increase as students graduate from school

Many of you who have been qualified to enter the Air Force and waiting for jobs should have already been or will soon be assigned to an Air Force specialty. The delay you experienced has allowed Air Force Recruiting Service to work with Air Force leaders to reduce the maximum number of people allowed to serve and meet the service's fiscal 2005 end strength.

For some of you, the wait for jobs may have led to some uncertainty in whether or not you made the right decision. The Air Force prides itself in taking care of its people – both on active duty and those waiting to join our ranks.

In order to honor the agreements we've made with those already serving, Air Force leaders decided to bring in only about half of the people it initially set out to recruit at the beginning of this fiscal year. Because of that, those already serving were allowed to continue their career plans.

What does this mean to you? Now that Air Force leaders have been able to better identify how to place

the right people in the right jobs at the right time, Air Force Recruiting Service can again assign jobs. And they've been busy doing that the past few months.

The summer is typically one of the busiest times of the year for people leaving for Basic Military Training following high school graduation. So, your wait to leave for BMT is almost over. Keep mindful of the training your recruiters have provided.

Those choosing to "Cross into the Blue" gain a great sense of achievement at BMT. You, too, will soon experience that accomplishment.

